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KNUCKLES
25
GALA 25th ANNIVERSARY ISSUE
DIRECT EDITION

KNUCKLES

BOOK TWENTY-FIVE

CHILDHOOD'S END

BORN TO THE MOST NOBLE OF ECHIDNA HOUSES, THE LATEST TO CONTINUE THE FAMILY HERITAGE AND RESPONSIBILITY AS GUARDIAN OF THE FLOATING ISLAND, DEFENDER OF ALL AGAINST THE FORCES OF EVIL FROM THE WORLD BEYOND AS WELL AS THOSE WHO WOULD THREATEN FROM WITHIN!

ARCHIE COMICS AND SEGA PRESENT... KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA!

KEN PENDERS
WRITER
MANNY GALAN
PENCILER
ANDREW PEPOY
INKER
MARK BERNARDO
COLORIST
VICKIE WILLIAMS
LETTERER

J.F. GABRIE
EDITOR /ART DIRECTOR

VICTOR GORELICK
MANAGING EDITOR
RICHARD GOLDWATER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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A LITTLE LESS THAN SIX YEARS AGO, **KNUCKLES** ACCOMPANIED HIS FATHER, **LOCKE**, TO THE EDGE OF THE **FORBIDDEN ZONE**, ONLY TO WITNESS HIS DISAPPEARANCE INTO A WALL OF UNEARTHLY FLAME.

FROM THAT POINT ON, KNUCKLES BELIEVED HIMSELF TO BE THE LAST OF HIS KIND... UNTIL RECENTLY.

HAVING BEEN REUNITED WITH HIS PEOPLE, AMONG THEM HIS MOTHER, **LARA-LE**, THERE IS BUT ONE LAST LINK OF HIS PAST AWAITING TO BE RECLAIMED...

WHO'DA THUNK?

BENEDICT TURNS OUT TO BE MORE EXTREME THAN THE LEGION--

--AND LEAVES US WONDERING WHAT ALL THE FUSS CONCERNING HI-TECH IS ABOUT!

VOTE FOR BENEDICT

BENEDIC FOR HIGH COUNC

BENEDIC FOR HIGH S

Y'KNOW, JULIE-SU, I THINK THIS CALLS FOR SOME SERIOUS--

HUH?

NO! IT CAN'T BE!

KNUX! WHAT IS IT?

YOU LOOK AS THOUGH YOU'VE SEEN A GHOST!

KNUCKLES!

WAITAMINUTE!

COME BACK!

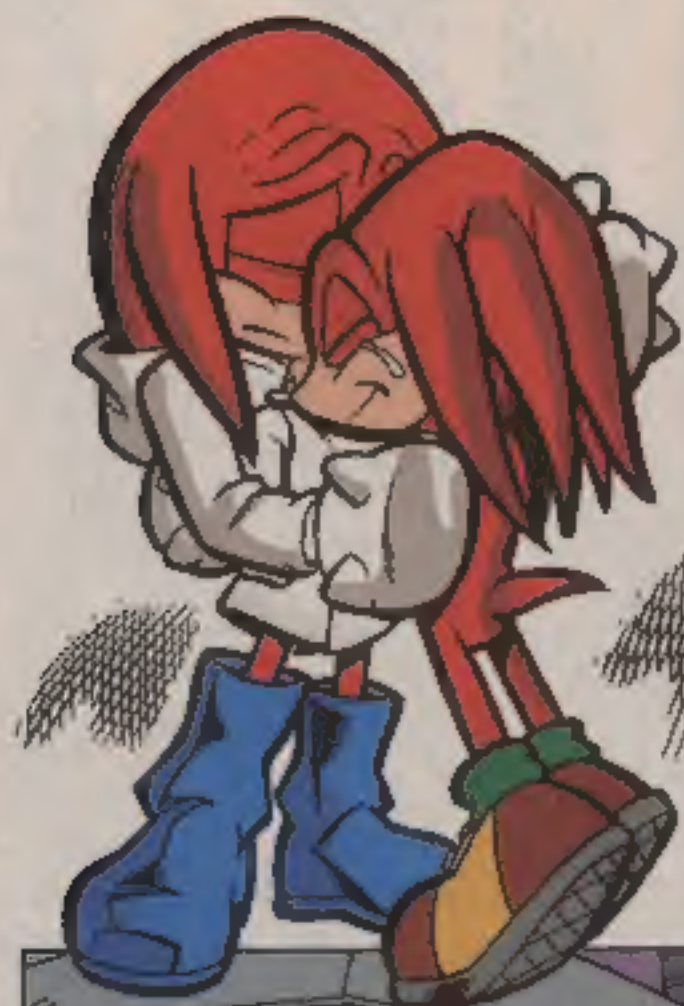
VOTE FOR BENEDI

VOTE

HEY, YOU!! STOP!!!
I JUST WANT TO TALK!!!
DAD?

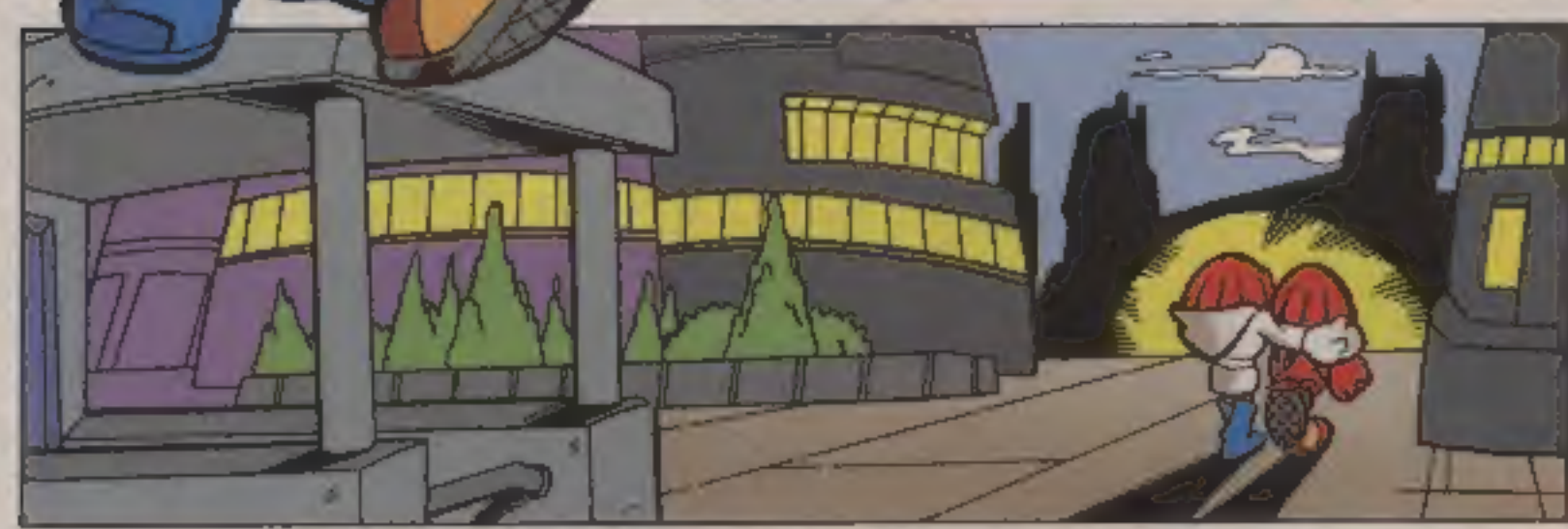
OH, DAD!

B
A
C
Childhood's
End



I'VE GOT A ZILLION QUESTIONS--
--AND I-- I-- I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START, DAD!
I'M JUST HAPPY YOU'RE HERE!

WE DO HAVE A LOT TO DISCUSS--
--BUT NOT HERE!
COME!



KNUCKLES!!!
WHERE ARE YOU?!! CAN YOU HEAR ME?!!

KNUCKLES!

THIS IS SO TYPICAL!

GOES OFF AND DOES HIS OWN THING AGAIN!

WELL, IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU WANT IT--

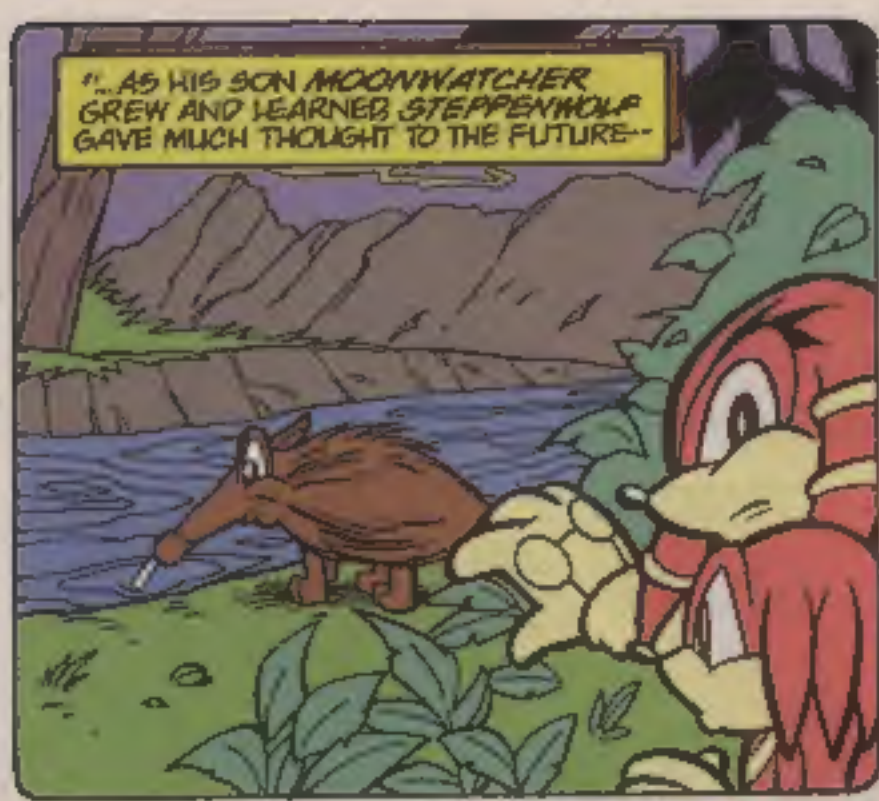
--SEE IF I CARE!

"JERK!"

SO, WHERE TO?

I SHOULD THINK THAT OBVIOUS, KNUCKLES-

--WE'RE HEADING TO HAVEN!
YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO EXPLAIN THAT ONE TO ME!
I STILL DON'T GET IT!
WHAT DO YOU WISH TO KNOW, SON?
EVERYTHING!
I DIDN'T GET FAR AFTER THE INTRODUCTIONS WERE MADE!*
* HE'S NOT KIDDING, EITHER. SEE KNUCKLES # 21 AND # 22 FOR DETAILS--JUSTIN
THERE'S SO MUCH TO TELL YOU, THAT I'M NOT CERTAIN WHERE TO BEGIN, EITHER!
EXPLAIN HAVEN, EH?
HAVEN WAS DESIGNED AND BUILT BY THE FIRE-ANTS AS A FACILITY FOR YOUR ANCESTOR STEPPENWOLF TO CARRY OUT HIS DUTIES AS GUARDIAN OF THE FLOATING ISLAND.
"OVER TIME, AND UNDER STEPPENWOLF'S GUIDANCE, IT WOULD BECOME SOMETHING MORE --MUCH MORE...


"...AS HIS SON MOONWATCHER GREW AND LEARNED STEPPENWOLF GAVE MUCH THOUGHT TO THE FUTURE--

"--PLANNING FOR THE DAY WHEN HIS OWN OFFSPRING WOULD ASSUME THEIR DUTIES ALONGSIDE HIM..."

SO THEN ONE DAY IT HITS HIM-- BANG!--
--I'VE GOT TO START A SECRET SOCIETY, RIGHT?
HARDLY!

OVER TIME, IT BECAME QUITE EVIDENT THAT IF THE CHAOS EMERALD WERE TO BE PRESERVED, STEPPENWOLF WOULD ALSO HAVE TO BE VIGILANT OF THE WORLD BEYOND!

"WHEN THE FLOATING ISLAND WAS VISITED FOR THE FIRST TIME BY OVERLANDERS, STEPPENWOLF COULD SENSE THERE WAS MORE BEHIND THEIR WORDS...
I AM KNOWN AS BRUTUS KINTOBOR OF THE HOUSE OF IVO.
MY COMPANIONS AND I COME IN PEACE!

GET READY TO SHOOT TO KILL!
" WHILE STEPPENWOLF WAS ALWAYS ONE TO GREET WITH OPEN ARMS--

" -HE WAS CERTAINLY NOBODY'S FOOL, VERY MUCH IN COMMAND OF ANY GIVEN SITUATION, AND THUS PREPARED FOR ANY POSSIBLE TREACHERY... "
OH, THE PAIN! THE PAIN!!
MY BRAIN!!
IT FEELS LIKE IT'S ON FIRE!!!
STOP IT!
MAKE IT STOP!!!
HAVE MERCY!!
ANYTHING! NAME YOUR TERMS!!!
ON ONE CONDITION!
I'LL MAKE YOUR PAIN STOP, AS LONG AS YOUR KIND PROMISES NEVER TO STEP FOOT ON THE FLOATING ISLAND EVER AGAIN!
YOU BREAK YOUR OATH, AND I PROMISE YOU AND YOURS WILL RUE THE DAY THEY WERE BORN!
WE-AGREE!
BUT BEFORE WE DEPART, THERE'S ONE THING I WISH TO KNOW-
--HOW DID YOU LEARN OF OUR INTENTIONS?
THAT'S MY SECRET!
WHO KNOWS WHAT ELSE YOUR KIND WILL TRY NEXT?
NOW-- GO!
" SO WHAT DID GIVE THE OVERLANDERS AWAY? "

STEPPENWOLF HAD AN ALLY EVEN FEW ECHIDNAS KNEW ABOUT--

--THE FIRE-ANTS!

THE FIRE-ANTS?! WHAT COULD THEY DO?

"ON THEIR OWN, SHORT OF DEFENDING THEMSELVES, NOT MUCH, BUT AS A COLLECTIVE--

" --WITH THEIR NATURAL TELEPATHIC ABILITIES GREATLY ENHANCED WHEN UTILIZED IN CHORUS, A GREAT DEAL MORE...

" AFTER THE OVERLANDERS HAD GONE, CHRISTOPHELES SPOKE WITH STEPPENWOLF...

THEY MAY HAVE BEEN THE FIRST--

-- BUT THEY WON'T BE THE LAST TO INVADE THIS ISLAND!

I AGREE!

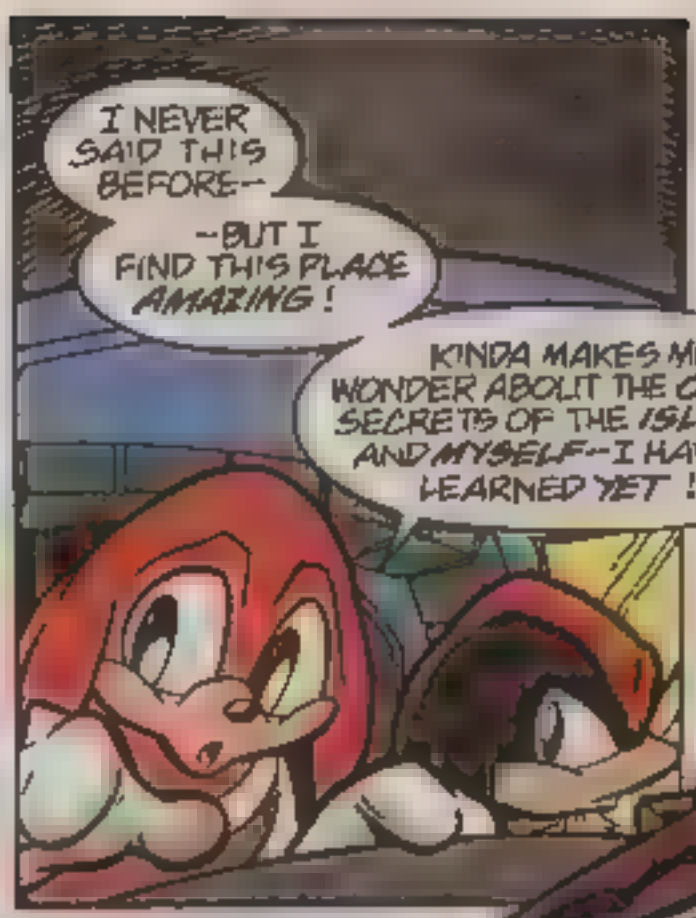
HAVE YOU ANY SUGGESTIONS, OLD FRIEND?

AS A MATTER OF FACT--

--HE DID!

WHICH WAS?

HOLD ON A MINUTE, SON--



ALL IN GOOD TIME, SON!

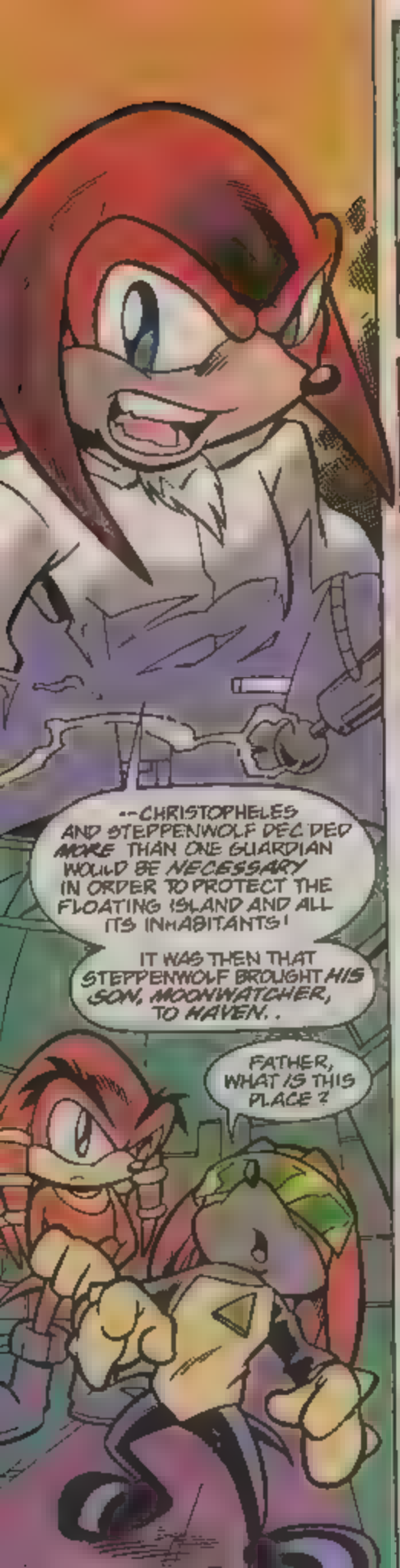
THIS WAY!

AND FOR THE RECORD, HAVEN WASN'T ALWAYS A SECRET TO WHOEVER WAS THE CURRENT GUARDIAN!

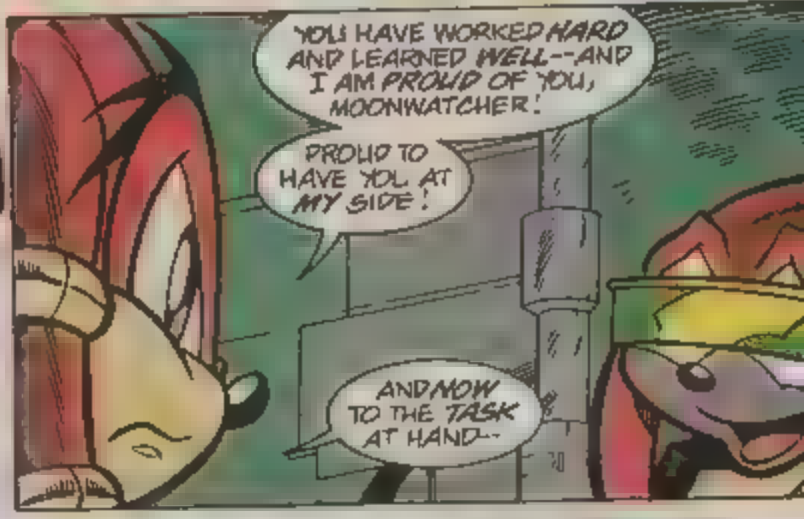
NO?

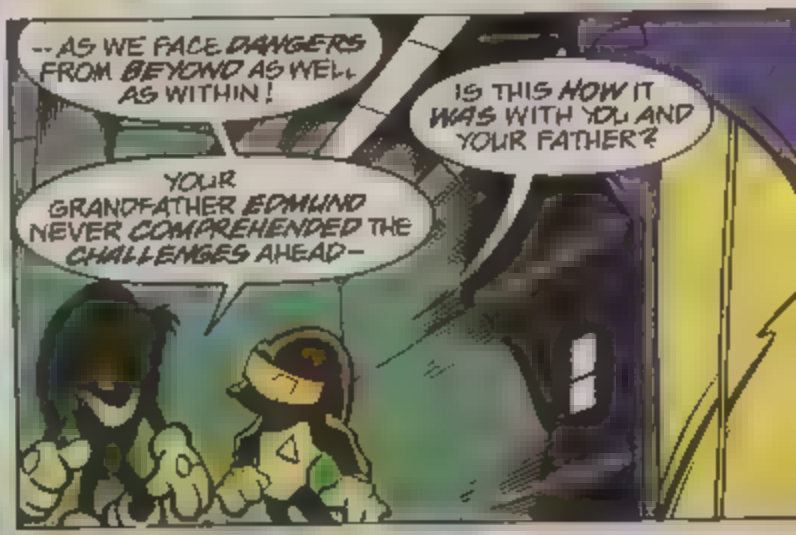
FAR FROM IT! UNFORTUNATELY, IT BECAME NECESSARY!

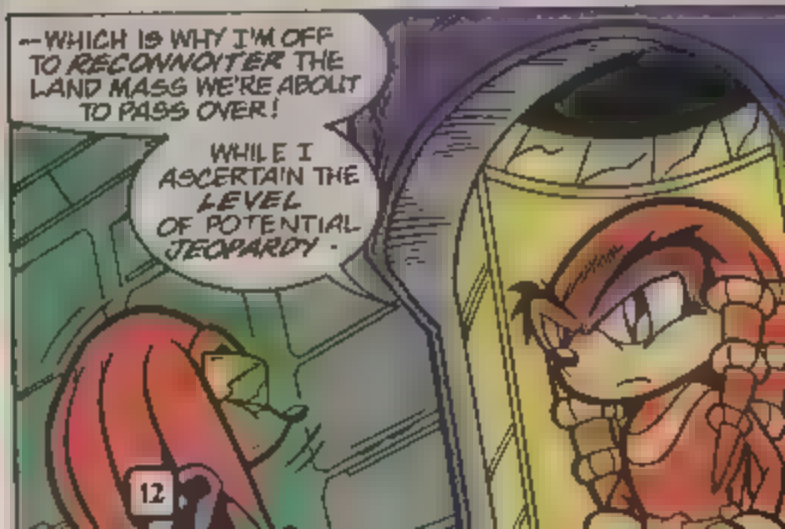
GETTING BACK TO WHERE I LEFT OFF--

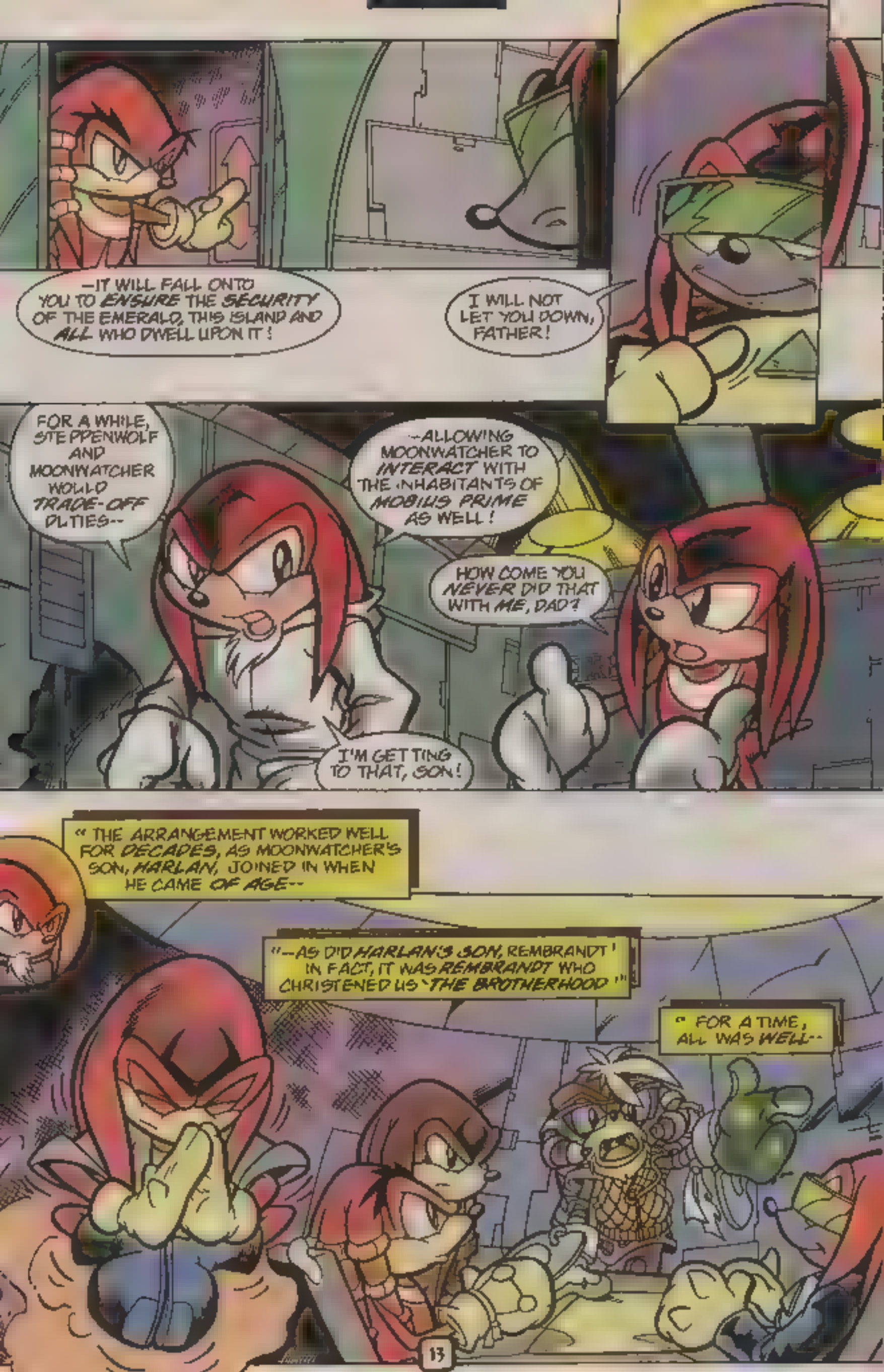

--CHRISTOPHELES AND STEPPENWOLF DECIDED MORE THAN ONE GUARDIAN WOULD BE NECESSARY IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE FLOATING ISLAND AND ALL ITS INHABITANTS!
IT WAS THEN THAT STEPPENWOLF BROUGHT HIS SON, MOONWATCHER, TO HAVEN..
FATHER, WHAT IS THIS PLACE?

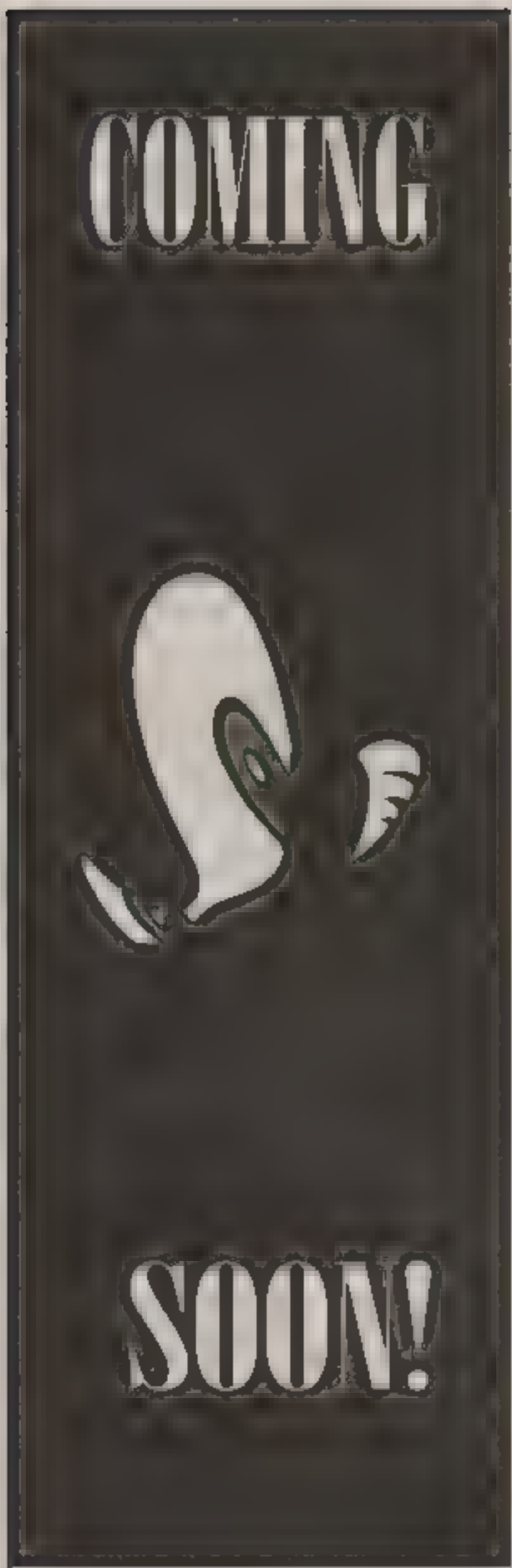
THIS IS WHERE YOU AND I WILL CONDUCT OPERATIONS FROM AS WE CARRY ON THE RESPONSIBILITIES ENTRUSTED TO US!


YOU HAVE WORKED HARD AND LEARNED WELL--AND I AM PROUD OF YOU, MOONWATCHER!
PROUD TO HAVE YOU AT MY SIDE!
AND NOW TO THE TASK AT HAND--


--AS WE FACE DANGERS FROM BEYOND AS WELL AS WITHIN!
IS THIS HOW IT WAS WITH YOU AND YOUR FATHER?
YOUR GRANDFATHER EDMUND NEVER COMPREHENDED THE CHALLENGES AHEAD--


--WHICH IS WHY I'M OFF TO RECONNOITER THE LAND MASS WE'RE ABOUT TO PASS OVER!
WHILE I ASCERTAIN THE LEVEL OF POTENTIAL JEOPARDY.


—IT WILL FALL ONTO YOU TO ENSURE THE SECURITY OF THE EMERALD, THIS ISLAND AND ALL WHO DWELL UPON IT!
I WILL NOT LET YOU DOWN, FATHER!
FOR A WHILE, STEPPENWOLF AND MOONWATCHER WOULD TRADE-OFF DUTIES--
--ALLOWING MOONWATCHER TO INTERACT WITH THE INHABITANTS OF MOBIUS PRIME AS WELL!
HOW COME YOU NEVER DID THAT WITH ME, DAD?
I'M GETTING TO THAT, SON!
" THE ARRANGEMENT WORKED WELL FOR DECADES, AS MOONWATCHER'S SON, HARLAN, JOINED IN WHEN HE CAME OF AGE--
"--AS DID HARLAN'S SON, REMBRANDT! IN FACT, IT WAS REMBRANDT WHO CHRISTENED US 'THE BROTHERHOOD'!"
" FOR A TIME, ALL WAS WELL--



NO PURCHASE NECESSARY

1. To enter: If you are under 18, you must have your parents' permission to play! From a **touch-tone phone only**, from 3/15/99 through 6/30/99, call **1-877-99Islands** (1-877-994-7526) toll free. When calling, you must provide the last 4 digits of the UPC # found on the Brand Seal of a specially-marked Nabisco package, and your home phone #, including area code. Limit 1 call per day from each phone #. Only 2 total entries will be accepted per Nabisco brand UPC # entered. If you wish to enter more than 2 times, please play using another specially-marked Nabisco brand UPC #. Calls must originate from the U.S. Computer generated calls not accepted.

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2. Open to legal residents of the 50 U.S. states and D.C. Employees of Universal Studios, Nabisco, Inc., their affiliates, subsidiaries, agencies, retailers, and the immediate families of each and persons living in the household of each are not eligible. Void where prohibited. Limit 1 prize per calendar month per phone # (phone from which call was placed). Limit 1 Grand Prize per household, address or family. All federal, state and local laws and regulations apply. Winners are subject to verification. Odds of winning depend on the number of eligible entries received. All prizes will be awarded.

3. Grand Prizes will be awarded at end of program in random drawing from [illegible] times per day will not allow you to be entered into the drawing more than once per day—only one call per day from any given phone number will be entered into the Grand Prize drawing! Drawing conducted on or about 8/31/99. First Prize Winners will be selected via random intercepts of calls during program period, will be notified that they have won during call, & will be notified by mail within 6-8 weeks of winning call. Grand Prize Winners will be notified by mail on or about 9/15/99. Random intercepts, drawings & notification are under supervision of Carlson Draddy & Associates, an independent judging organization whose decisions are final.

4. Twenty-five (25) Grand Prizes: A 6-day/5-night trip for Winner and three (3) guests to Orlando, FL, including round-trip coach air travel from major gateway city nearest to Winner's home, hotel accommodations (1 room for 4), airport transfers, 5-day free admission to Universal Studios Escape and Islands of Adventure, plus $1,000 spending money. All meals, ground transportation, taxes and any other expenses not specified above are the sole responsibility of the Winner. All travel must begin and end at major gateway city nearest to Winner's home. Approximate retail value (ARV): $5,900. One Hundred Thousand (100,000) First Prizes—one (1) color-change dinosaur cup. ARV: $5.50. If under 18, one of Grand Prize Winner's guests must be Winner's parent or legal guardian. Grand Prize Winners will be required to execute and return Affidavits of Eligibility and Publicity/Liability Releases, within 14 days of attempted notification. Grand Prize Winners' parents/legal guardians and all travel companions will be required to execute and return Publicity/Liability Releases within same time period. By participating in this Sweepstakes, entrants agree to be bound by these Official Rules and the decisions of the judges. By acceptance of Prize, Winners consent to Sponsor's use of their names and/or likenesses and biographical information for commercial purposes without additional notification or compensation, except where prohibited. Prizes are not transferable or assignable. No substitution of prizes is allowed, except at Sponsor's sole discretion. Grand Prize trip must be taken by April 30, 2000. If Grand Prize Winners and their guests are not available within the time specified, an alternate Winner may be chosen. Travel dates subject to Sponsor's approval and potential black-out dates and restrictions. All guests of Grand Prize Winner must travel with the Grand Prize Winner. Winners agree to release, discharge and hold harmless Nabisco, Inc., its affiliates, parents, subsidiaries, advertising and promotion agencies, and their employees, from any and all claims or damages, including personal injury and/or death arising out of Winners' participation in the Sweepstakes and in the acceptance and use and/or misuse of any of the prizes awarded therefrom.

[illegible] a copy of these Official Rules, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Nabisco Islands of Adventure Winners, P.O. Box 3700, Dept. R, St. Cloud, MN 56397-3700, by February 1, 2000. Please indicate your request on outer envelope (Winners List or Official Rules).

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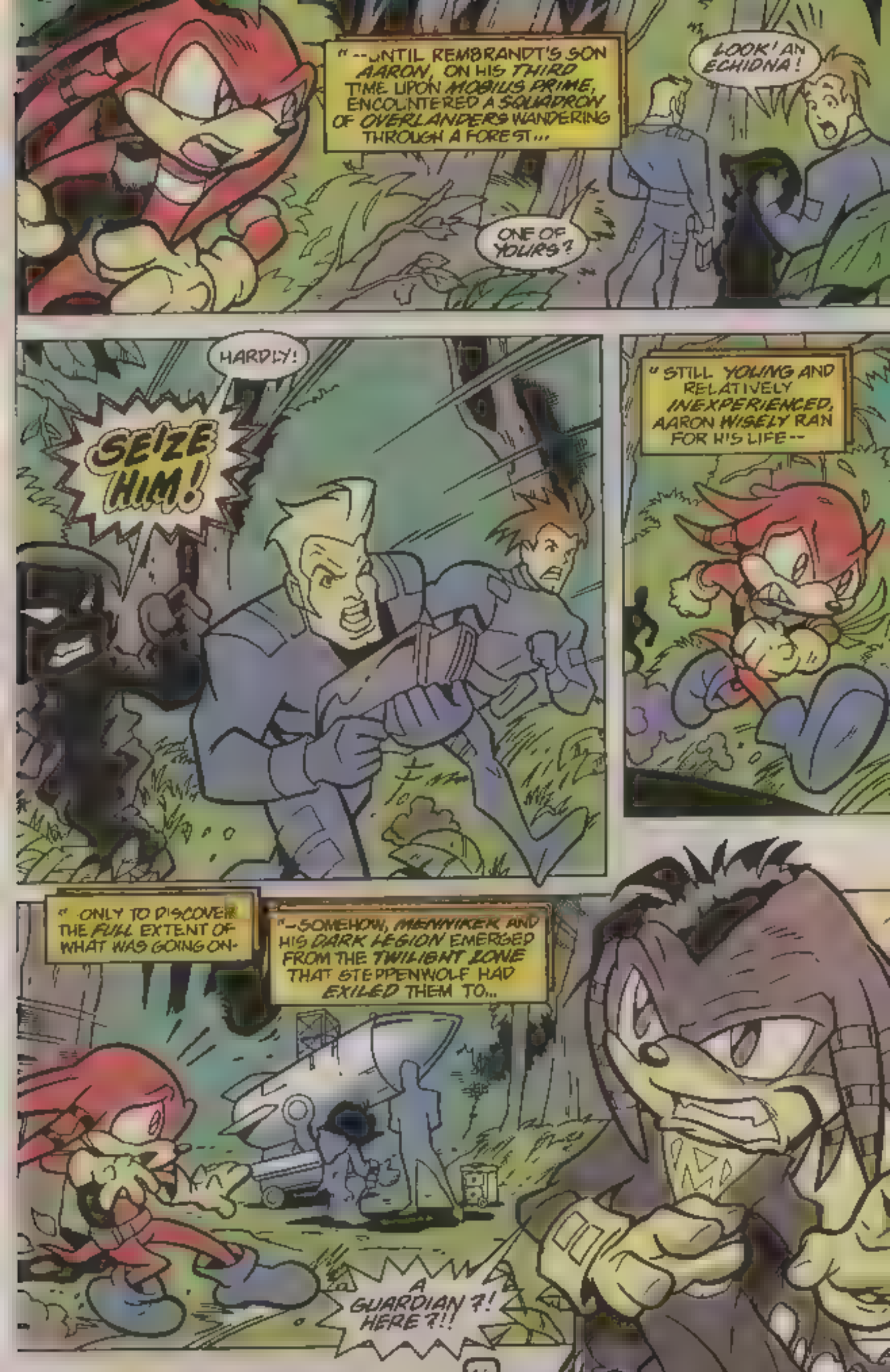

"--UNTIL REMBRANDT'S SON AARON, ON HIS THIRD TIME UPON MOBIUS PRIME, ENCOUNTERED A SQUADRON OF OVERLANDERS WANDERING THROUGH A FOREST...
LOOK! AN ECHIDNA!
ONE OF YOURS?
HARDLY!
SEIZE HIM!
"STILL YOUNG AND RELATIVELY INEXPERIENCED, AARON WISELY RAN FOR HIS LIFE--
"ONLY TO DISCOVER THE FULL EXTENT OF WHAT WAS GOING ON-
"--SOMEHOW, MENNIKER AND HIS DARK LEGION EMERGED FROM THE TWILIGHT ZONE THAT STEPPENWOLF HAD EXILED THEM TO...
A GUARDIAN?! HERE?!!

HE'LL RUIN OUR PLANS!

HERE!! GIVE ME THAT!!!

IT'S CALLED A PREEMPTIVE FIRST STRIKE, MENNIKER!

WHY WAIT AND ALLOW THE ENEMY TO THWART OUR GRAND SCHEME?

KLIK!

ACTIVATE

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!!

WE'RE NOT READY YET!!!

HE'S GOING FOR THE MISSILE!!!

LET HIM!

HE'LL BE DESTROYED ALONG WITH THE FLOATING ISLAND!!!

ROOARRRR

YOU FOOL!!!

HE'S OPENED THE HATCH TO THE GUIDANCE CONTROLS!!!

I'VE GOT TO STOP HIM!

MENNIKER! WAIT!!

THIS IS EXACTLY LIKE THE SYSTEMS GRANDFATHER HAD SHOWN ME!
NOW IF I CROSS-CIRCUIT TO 'B', I SHOULD BE ABLE TO--
WHOOPS!
GET OFF OF THERE!!!
YOU MAKE ME, BUB!
I'VE GOT-- MORE IMPORTANT-- THINGS--TO DO!
DON'T TOUCH THAT SWITCH!!!
YOU'LL PREMATURELY SET OFF THE DETONATOR!!
REALLY?!
THANKS FOR TELLING ME!!!

THEY NEVER DID FIND ANY TRACE OF AARON OR MENNIKER!

SO *HE* WAS THE *FIRST* GUARDIAN TO *DIE*!

OH, NO!

STEPPENWOLF'S FATHER, *EDMUND*--THE *VERY FIRST* GUARDIAN--WAS ALSO THE *FIRST* TO *FALL* IN THE LINE OF DUTY.

THE *DIFFERENCE* BETWEEN THE TWO--

--STEM FROM THE FACT EDMUND WAS A *SCIENTIST*, NOT A FIGHTER--

"--THUS, THE ENEMY WAS ABLE TO *EXPLOIT* HIS *LACK OF COMBAT STRATEGY*--*"

--WHEREAS AARON, THOUGH *GIFTED* WITH *EXTRAORDINARY* INTELLIGENCE, SUCCUMBED TO THE *BRAVADO* AND *RECKLESSNESS* OF HIS *YOUTH*!

* AS CHRONICLED IN KNUCKLES THE DARK LEGION #2 - J-MAN

"THOUGH REMBRANDT SUFFERED THE *MOST*, THE OTHER GUARDIANS WERE JUST AS *AGGRIEVED*--

"--AND *DETERMINED* TO TAKE STEPS TO *ENSURE* THIS *WOULDN'T* HAPPEN AGAIN..."

"--ESPECIALLY WHEN AARON'S YOUNGER BROTHER, JORDAN, [redacted] IT KNOWN HE WANTED TO CARRY ON IN HIS BROTHER'S STEAD..."

FATHER--

--I WANT MORE THAN ANYTHING TO BECOME THE GUARDIAN THAT AARON CAN NEVER BE!

"REMBRANDT CHOKED BACK THE TEARS--

"--AND BEGAN TUTORING JORDAN IN A MANNER MUCH AS I DID YOU..."

THIS ISN'T RIGHT!

WE SHOULD ALL BE INVOLVED IN JORDAN'S TRAINING!

BETTER WE SHOULD ESTABLISH LIMITS FOR JORDAN AND INCREASE HIS RESPONSIBILITIES GRADUALLY!

SO YOU DIDN'T JUST ABANDON ME?

HARDLY!

I WAS ALWAYS THERE FOR YOU, KNUCKLES--

--BUT IN ORDER FOR YOU TO LEARN SELF-RELIANCE I HAD TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY ENVIRONMENT!

YOU WOULDN'T BE THE INDIVIDUAL YOU ARE--

--IF YOU WEREN'T ALLOWED THE *OPPORTUNITY* TO *SUCCEED* OR *FAIL* ON YOUR OWN!

MORE THAN ANY OTHER DESCENDENT OF EDMUND THIS IS *ESPECIALLY* TRUE OF *YOU*!

ME? WHY?

ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE *READY* FOR THIS?

ABSOLUTELY, FATHER!

YOU HAVE MY *UNDIVIDED* ATTENTION!

OKAAAYY.

ONE NIGHT I HAD A *DREAM* --SOME WOULD SAY A *NIGHT-MARE*--THAT SEEMED SO *REAL*, I FOUND I HAD A DIFFICULT TIME DISTINGUISHING *REALITY* FROM *FANTASY* FOR MONTHS AFTERWARDS!

WAS IT A DREAM *INDUCED* BY THOSE REFERRED TO AS THE *ANCIENT WALKERS*--

--OR THE *PRECOGNITIVE VISION* OF EVENTS *YET TO UNFOLD*?*

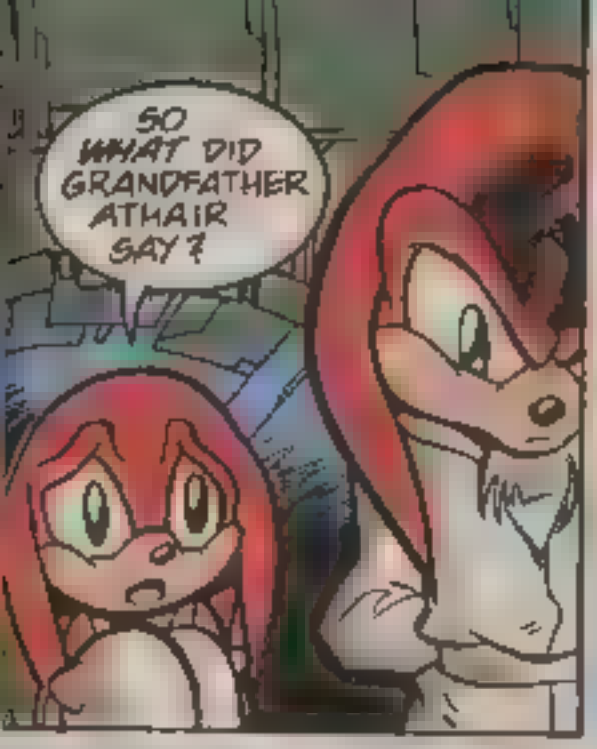
*YOU'LL HAVE TO CHECK AN UPCOMING SONIC SUPER SPECIAL FEATURING THE EPIC KNUCKLES TWENTY YEARS LATER TO SEE THE FULL STORY. PT GABRIE

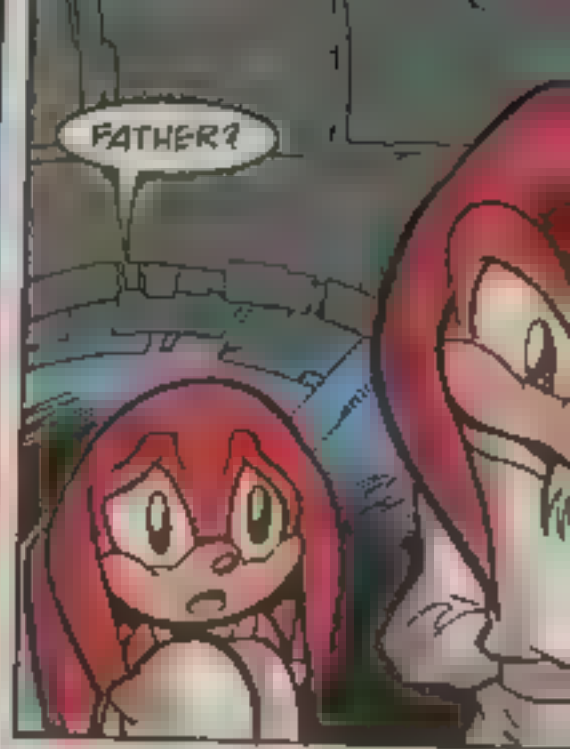
"I WATCHED HELPLESSLY AS I EXPERIENCED IMAGES OF YOU FACING SO *FEARFUL* AN *ADVERSARY*...

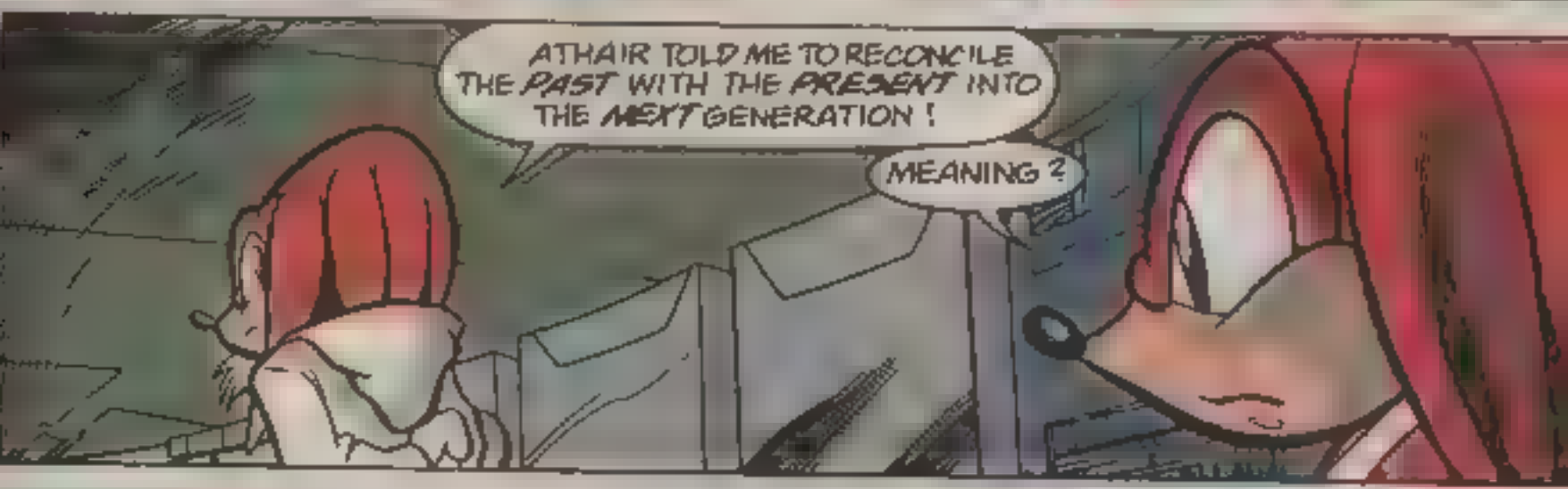
" AND THEN-

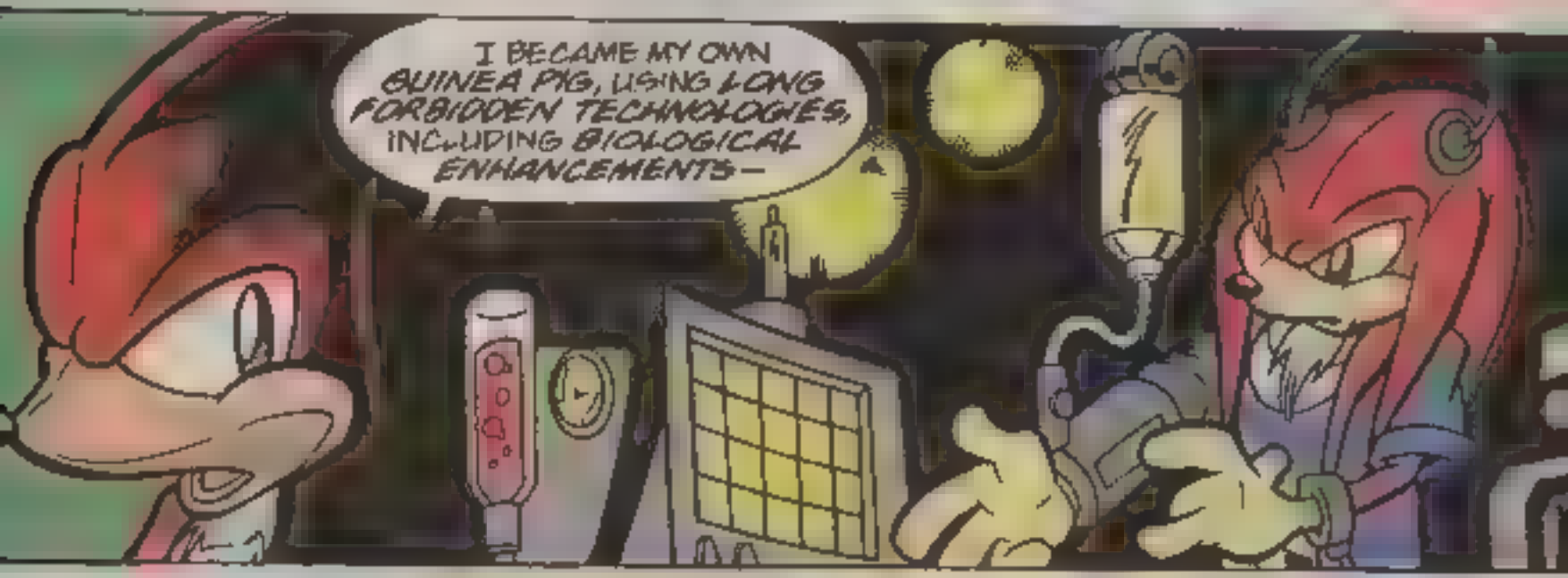
"--EVERYTHING *ENDED* WITH A *BRILLIANT FLASH OF LIGHT*--

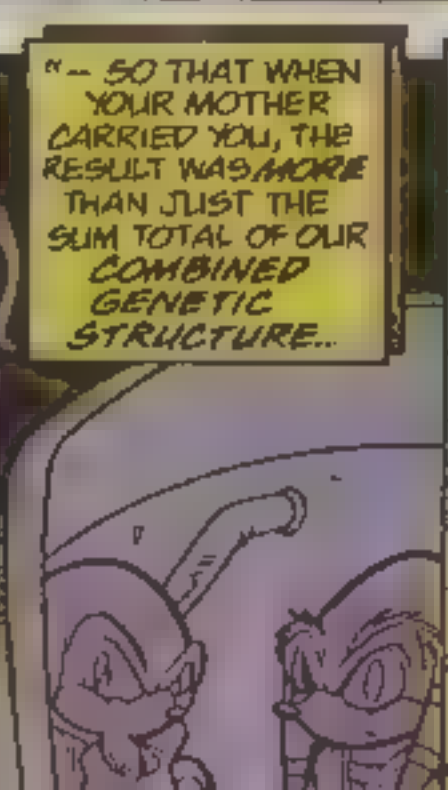
NOOOOOO!
LOCKE?
WHAT IS IT, HONEY?
ONLY A DREAM, LARA--
--YET MORE THAN A DREAM!
SO PERSISTENT WERE THE VISIONS THAT I SOUGHT OUT ADVICE FROM A MOST UNLIKELY SOURCE--
"--ATHAIR!"
WHAT YOU WITNESSED IS THE FUTURE, LOCKE--
--A FUTURE THAT MAY YET CONTAIN A SHRED OF HOPE IF YOU PREPARE FOR IT!
AND HOW AM I TO GO ABOUT MY TASK, GRANDFATHER?

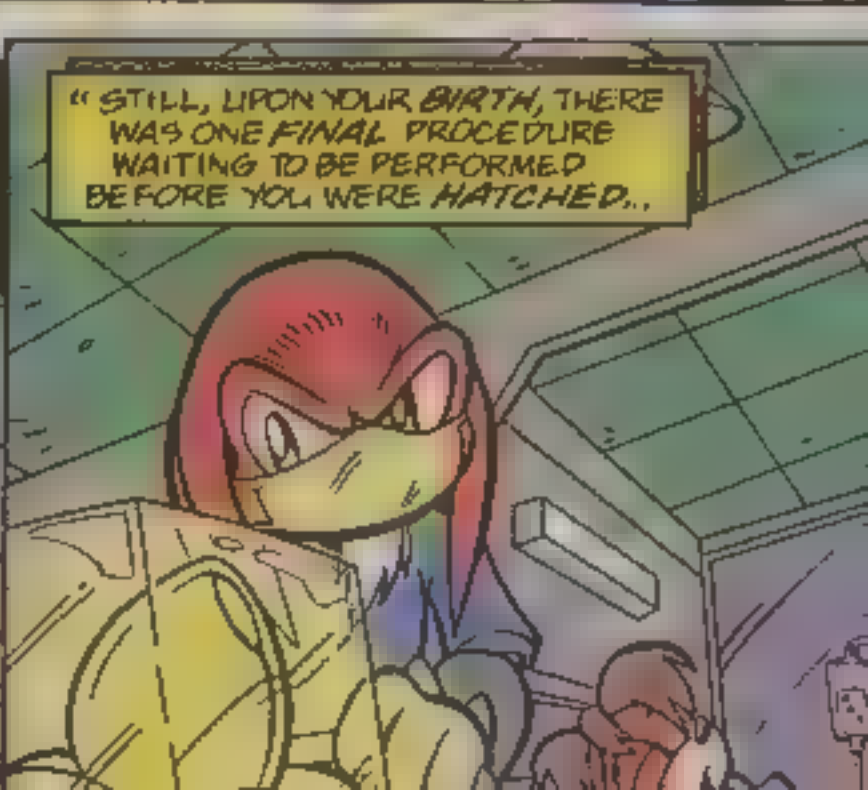

SO WHAT DID GRANDFATHER ATHAIR SAY?


FATHER?


ATHAIR TOLD ME TO RECONCILE THE PAST WITH THE PRESENT INTO THE NEXT GENERATION!
MEANING?


I BECAME MY OWN GUINEA PIG, USING LONG FORBIDDEN TECHNOLOGIES, INCLUDING BIOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENTS—


"— SO THAT WHEN YOUR MOTHER CARRIED YOU, THE RESULT WAS MORE THAN JUST THE SUM TOTAL OF OUR COMBINED GENETIC STRUCTURE...


"STILL, UPON YOUR BIRTH, THERE WAS ONE FINAL PROCEDURE WAITING TO BE PERFORMED BEFORE YOU WERE HATCHED...

" ONCE INSIDE THE *CHAOS CHAMBER*, YOUR *EGG* WAS SUBJECTED TO A *RADIATION BATH*, ENABLED THROUGH THE *FULL FORCE* OF THE *CHAOS EMERALD*...

...THOUGH THERE HAD BEEN *MUCH* DEBATE *FOR* AND *AGAINST* GOING FORWARD WITH MY PLAN BY THE *ENTIRE* BROTHERHOOD.

MY FATHERS--

--THE *PROCESS IS COMPLETE!*

NOW, ALL WE CAN DO IS *WAIT!*

"WITH MUCH *ANTICIPATION*, YOUR MOTHER AND I WATCHED AS YOU *HATCHED*...

" ..AND WHEN YOU *EMERGED*, I KNEW THEN ALL MY EFFORTS HAD MET WITH *SUCCESS*..."

LOCKE?

SO WHAT WAS IT THAT SAID EVERYTHING WAS A-OKAY?

SEE MY GLOVES?

YEAH? WHAT ABOUT 'EM?

OBSERVE!

EVEN THOUGH I'M A GUARDIAN, I'M ALSO STILL FULLY ECHIDNA!

YOU, ON THE OTHER HAND--

--ARE EVERY BIT THE GENETICALLY ENHANCED MUTANT OFFSPRING YOU WERE INTENDED TO BE!

IT'S TRUE!

ALL THIS TIME--

--I THOUGHT EVERY GUARDIAN HAD KNUCKLES LIKE MINE!

BUT, WHY ME?!!

THOUGH THE BROTHERHOOD CANNOT FIGHT THE FUTURE--

--YOU CAN CREATE ITS SAVIOR!

SAVIOR?!! ME?!!!

DID IT EVER OCCUR TO YOU I'D BE HAPPIER JUST BEING YOUR SON?!!

YOU THINK I NEVER EXPERIENCED THE SAME FEELINGS YOU CURRENTLY ARE ?!!

I WENT THROUGH THE EXACT SAME PROCEDURE, KNUCKLES, AS DID MY FATHER AND HIS FATHER BEFORE HIM!

THE ONLY DIFFERENCE--

--IS YOU POSSESS ABILITIES FAR BEYOND THE CAPABILITY OF ANY GUARDIAN THAT EVER CAME BEFORE--

--AND ARE JUST NOW BECOMING AWARE OF THEM!

THAT'S JUST TOO FAR OUT!

PUT YOURSELF IN MY SHOES!

IS HAVING TO DECIDE BETWEEN SACRIFICING A WORLD OR SIRING A SON TO SAVE IT ANY LESS STAGGERING A THOUGHT?

GOOD POINT!

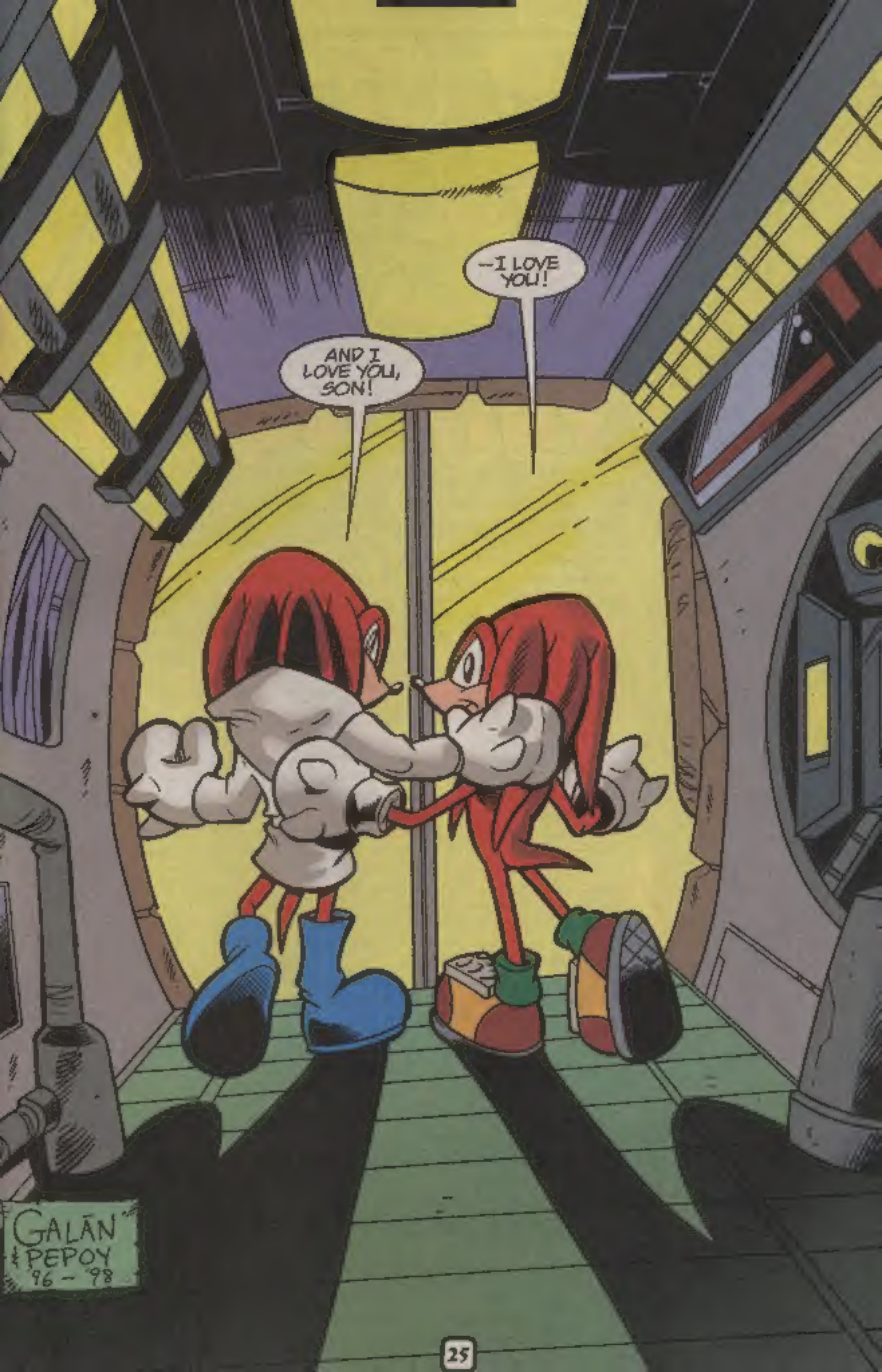
SO WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

NOW?

I THINK IT'S TIME WE TOOK A BREAK AND DID SOMETHING TOGETHER--

--JUST LIKE ANY FATHER AND HIS SON!

DAD -


—I LOVE YOU!
AND I LOVE YOU, SON!
GALÁN & PEPOY 96 - 98

FISTFUL OF LETTERS

OFF PANEL **by Gallagher & Manak**

THIS JUST IN!

Hey, Knux-fans! Thanks for being a part of this very special issue of Knuckles The Echidna. It's been a long road to get to this point. It could not have happened without you. Because of you, the fans, supporting his book month after month for twenty-five months straight, you've allowed our favorite guardian the opportunity to live. Together, we've watched Knuckles grow and evolve in his new surroundings and new situations with poise and determination. And chronicling his adventures for most of his run are creators Ken Penders, Manny Galan, Andrew Pepoy, Vickie Williams and Barry Grossman. I'd like to thank them, as well as Jane Thompson and her new assistant Mari Schaal from Sega of America. On a sour note, this issue does not sport a silver-inked cover as mentioned last issue due to production complications. We apologize for this but hope you enjoy the cover just the same. That's it for now until next month...

Catch you on the flip side!

And now a few words from artist Manny Galan:

As most of you must know by now, this is my last full issue of Knuckles and I just want to say that it has been one wild ride. When I started drawing Knuckles 2 1/2 years ago, I never dreamed I'd still be doing it today, much less having a blast doing so. But sadly there comes a time when one must move on creatively and explore different venues and draw upon other sources for inspiration in order to grow as an artist. It was my intention to stay with the book indefinitely but recently I've been feeling devoid of inspiration and rather than let the book suffer, have decided to take a much needed break. But never fear, I will not be far away as I will still be doing the back up stories for the foreseeable future and will be taking over for the extremely talented Spaz on cover duty. I would like to thank Archie Comics for giving me a home when there was none to be found; Justin Gabrie, who aside from being a great friend, allowed me the opportunity to grow into the characters and encouraged me to experiment with different forms of storytelling and most importantly, thanks to you, the fans of the book who supported it through all of my nonsense and came back for more every month. To everyone who sent me fan mail, I want you to know it touched me very deeply and it helped me get through the rough times. Thanks for all the kind words and all the support. Don't think of this so much as a good-bye but rather as a see you later.

Love and best wishes,
Manny Galan

J.F. GABRIE
Editor / Art Director

Send letters to:
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E-MAIL: jfreddyg@archiecomics.com
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Note: Due to the overwhelming amount of e-mail and snail mail, it is impossible for us to reply personally to each and every message. However, your opinions are important to us and each message will be read. Also, due to space limitations, some correspondence may be edited. Thanks for understanding!

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